

# NEWS FROM GEORGIA

We received an interesting letter from a new member in Americus, Georgia. Mr. Walter J. Laing kindly gave us permission to quote part of it.

"Concerning the crossing of Hibiscus and Altheas: I think I have been successful, though most of the crosses are non-descript. The sizes vary from one and two inch to 6-7 inch diameters. White and lavender predominate. One very small double white showed faint yellow markings on the outer petals. There have been several good pinks and near reds. The blooms have more refinement (the good ones) and quality than Altheas. There is more ruffling, overlapping of petals, sheen, etc. usually, the blooms are convex as opposed to concave as in pure Altheas. Seed of the crosses have more fiber, which varies in color from off white, creamy, shades of buff and light tan. The fiber is sometimes 3/8" and slightly longer.

"The Altheas were used as the female and Hibiscus were used as the male parents. Hibiscus have never set seed for me, but the crosses sometimes set - one or two or three seeds to a pod, large, fat, bloated seed, though occasionally a thin, dessicated seed results.

"A friend, Dr. C. L. Phyne, a plant geneticist, tells me that the only way to be sure of crosses is to have a count of the chromosomes, etc. Also that some of my plants may be "haploid" produced without fertilization, but stimulated into seeding. He says this is common in cotton cross-breeding (though cotton, he says, has recently been removed from the hibiscus near kin)."

Good luck, and keep us posted, Mr. Laing.

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T... Tha.....Thats all folks. We will see you at the annual meeting in Palm Beach.

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